

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/929,463

Examiner

Jacques Veillard

Applicant(s)

BOURDONCLE ET AL.

Art Unit

2165

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to communication filed on 8/11/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-42.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


JEFFREY CATPIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to the applicant's communication filed on 8/11/2006.
2. Claims 1-42 are pending and presented for examination.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-42 are allowed in light of the Applicant's arguments and in light of the prior art made of record.

Reasons for Indicating Allowable Subject matter

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The examiner, upon searching a variety of databases, respectfully submits that the prior art of record taken singularly or in combination fail to teach or fairly suggest a computer implement process for searching a database of entries for --dynamically extracting the key phrases associated with the entries returned by the query; dynamically selecting a subset of said extracted key phrases; displaying to the user the selected categories and the selected key phrases in addition to a list of entries returned by the query; and in response to the user activating one of the displayed categories or the displayed key phrases, starting a second query refining the first query to a subset of the entries returned by the first query-- as embodied in the independent claims 1, 15, 28, and 31.

The dependent claims 2--14, 16-27, 29-30, and 32-42, being further limiting to the independent claims, definite and fully enabled by the Specification are also allowed.

The closest prior art, Wical (U. S. Pat. 6,038,560) discloses a knowledge base search and retrieval system, which includes factual knowledge base queries. The system permit to identify

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queries in response to an input query, documents relevant to the input query through expansion of the query of the query terms as well as through expansion of terms. Wical does not implicitly disclose dynamically extracting the key phrases associated with the entries returned by the query; dynamically selecting a subset of said extracted key phrases; displaying to the user the selected categories and the selected key phrases in addition to a list of entries returned by the query; and in response to the user activating one of the displayed categories or the displayed key phrases, starting a second query refining the first query to a subset of the entries returned by the first query. The closest prior art fails to anticipate or render applicant's limitations above obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Points Of Contact

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jacques Veillard whose telephone number is (571) 272-4086. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. to Fri. from 9 AM to 4:30 PM, alt. Fri. off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Gaffin can be reached on (571) 272- 4146. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

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may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JV
J.V

Jacques Veillard
Patent Examiner TC 2100

August 29, 2006